



IOWA COUNCIL FOR EARLY ACCESS

Minutes
May 20, 2005
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Des Moines Botanical Center

909 E East River Dr
Des Moines, IA 50316
(515) 323-8900

Members Present

Bob Bacon
Cathy Ryba
Jim Overland
Greg Titus
Shanell Wagler
Debra Sixta
Joel Yates
Rene Wallace
Diane Halverson
Lana Michelson

Royann Mraz
Michael Baldwin
Glenn Baughman
Kyla Alba
Troy McCarthy
Barb Merrill
Mary Jane Brotherson
Glenn Grove
Jan Mackey

Staff Present

Julie Curry Early ACCESS State Coordinator
Kay Leeper ICEA Facilitator

Handouts:

ICEA Minutes 5/20/06

2004 Data Packet

Part C State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report

Part C Indicator Measurement Table

Call to Order

The meeting was brought to order at 10 a.m. by Bob Bacon, Chair. The Minutes were approved with minor corrections for clarity.

Bob Bacon read a letter of response from the Governor and Lt Governor expressing support for Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) and the work they do. The Governor emphasized the “importance of a strong statewide public health infrastructure as part of a comprehensive system to support the growth and development of all Iowa children”. He went on to say that the budget based on revenue will under fund health care and asked that we support his proposal to raise the tobacco tax to increase funding for health care

needs in the state, including CHSC. This letter is in response to our letter to the Governor on March 21, 2005 seeking a funding increase for CHSC.

Our Children

Parents shared current stories about their children. Many pictures of the children were shared. One child is in the midst of transition to Part B. Troy McCarthy commented that his son brings joy in areas where he and his wife never expected. Kyla Alba reported her daughter is 14 and excited about going to camp this summer. Several children are involved in Special Olympics today so that some parents were participating in both the Council and the track meets. Jan Mackey's daughter was frightened of the starter gun and got off to a slow start on her race, but she still placed at the Special Olympics. The Council heard from parents who were unable to attend the meeting as well. It is good to hear of the special gifts and challenges of the children of our council members. It helps to ground us in our work as a council.

Lead Agency Update - Lana Michelson and Julie Curry **State Application**

Lana Michelson reported that the State Application for FY 2006 was sent to OSEP on May 9, 2005. The application can be viewed on the Department of Education web site. The application is completely different from previous applications. It includes timelines for the implementation of IDEA 2004 that must be in effect by May 2006, including how Iowa plans to analyze the new regulations and promulgate new rules. The new rules need to go to the State Board of Education by January 2006. New policies will have to be fully implemented by April 2006. We have a lot of work to get the pieces in place by July 2006. As timelines are set, we are asking the Council to attend closely to emails so that your voice is heard.

Special Education funding is continuing to decline. Even with forward planning for a cut there is a \$500,000 deficit in the Part C budget. The Department hopes to be able to shift staff positions so staff can be maintained, but we will have to trim the budget in other ways. In light of the budget constraints interagency agreements and financial support is even more critical as we move into next year. The budget decline is due in part to Iowa's decrease in the birth rate. As time goes on it looks as if we will have less and less to do more and more.

State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report

The State Performance Plan is due to OSEP December 2nd. A method for stakeholder input is being developed. This is a six year plan that we will not be able to amend. The role of the council will be to review stakeholder input this fall and to assist in generating targets and strategies. The report is focused on results, accountability and enforcement.

We will be seeking your input for the Six Year Plan at the September meeting.

Council Comments

There is concern about the amount of paperwork required for the Six Year Plan for the amount of dollars brought into the state to serve children. The Council has serious concerns about the implications of a decrease in funding, the federal mandates and lack of flexibility. Members question if it is time to resume the dialogue about continuing to apply for Part C funding. Lana responded that the concerns of Council were addressed by the ICEA Executive Committee and that they have requested the Lead agency prepare information about what it means to be a birth mandate state. It is a very complex issue.

We need to look to accountability on the Federal side. We want to know where the numbers come from for the indicators.

Council suggestions included sending a letter to President Bush or to the Governor about our concerns. However, before we take the issue forward we will need to get more information.

In other issues, concern was raised about the call from OSEP in March to solicit information regarding monitoring, dispute resolution, mediation, corrections, and sanctions. Parents commented that they did not call in because the questions and invitation were not family-centered and written in a way that they could ascertain the purpose or importance of calling to respond.

Work Group Progress

Julie Curry thanked the Council for their contribution to the Annual Performance Report at the March meeting. Comments received were used to improve the report and also helped with preparation of the data.

Data work Group: The Signatory agencies are forming a work group to improve efforts of data collection from multiple sources. Members are still being identified for this work group.

Early Childhood Outcomes

Erin Kongshaug, Dee Gethmann and Natalie Welter are leading this work group that includes a large stakeholder group and an advisory committee. There is no data available at this time for this indicator. On May 5th training was held for Service Coordinators and staff across the state to start collecting outcome data. DHS experience and accountability provided assistance on the data entry tool.

Review and Discussion of the 2004 Data Report - Julie Curry

Julie Curry lead a discussion regarding the 2004 Data Report distributed at the March Council meeting. The purpose of the discussion was to provide opportunity for Council members to review the data, ask questions about how the data was collected and reported, identify needs for further study or action, and to draw conclusions for long term planning and focused monitoring efforts.

The data were arranged by three goals: Early Identification, Early Intervention Services, and Transition.

Council members divided into small discussion groups to consider the trends and issues around the topic. The conclusions from the discussion will be used throughout the year to help shape the State Performance Plan and determine area for focus monitoring.

Comments from the discussion groups are attached.

Selection of the Priority Indicator for Focused Monitoring

The Council considered the priority area for Focused Monitoring for 2005-2006, based on the 2004 data. Julie Curry shared data on the progress made in Region 14 after focused monitoring was received there last year. This process is making an impact on what happens to children in Iowa. Focused monitoring is a systems improvement process focused on a specific service need. One region is selected each year for improvement efforts based on outcome data from that region.

Council discussion:

The council considered which of the three goals, Early Identification, Early Intervention Services, or Transition, would be chosen for the system improvement over the next year.

Council thought that, in light of the data, each of the three goal areas were worthy of improvement activities and there was considerable discussion before a final choice was made.

There were concerns raised about the clarity of the transition data. This was viewed as a conceptual concern that should be shored up before next year or before systems changes should be considered. There were also concerns raised about coding issues for service provision. Members question if children are getting all needed services. Asked if Early ACCESS is using the partners to provide those services that are not on the IFSP? Suggested adding partner services to the IFSP so that they are included in the planning and measuring. Commented that there are too many “zero’s” on the chart for services that are not explained. This requires more preliminary work done on data collection.

By consensus the Council selected Early Identification as the priority area.

Lana Michelson abstained from participation in the consensus discussion.

Review of the State Performance Plan – Julie Curry

Julie Curry presented the 14 measures in the State Performance Plan and sought suggestions for Stakeholders who should be involved in the process. These measures and indicators are given to the States by OSEP, and we cannot change them. The role of the Council at this stage in the plan development is to help the Lead Agency identify the appropriate stakeholders for input into each cluster.

The indicators are not final yet but we anticipate getting them in the next few months. We plan to have the final version by fall. The work of the September and November meetings will be focused on this plan. If the timeline demands it we may need to come in over the summer. Watch your emails.

Membership Committee – Cathy Ryba, Chair

Committee members: Michael Baldwin, Glenn Baughman, Jennifer Gomez, and Barbara Merrill.

Cathy Ryba thanked the members of the Membership Committee for their commitment and work recruiting potential Council members to submit for the Governor’s consideration. This year there are eight vacancies and five reappointments. Janet Mackey and Kyla Alba have completed one term on the Council and are committed to continuing their service. Both have children who are now over the age of 12. Their names are being submitted for reappointment as “at large” members. Resignations were received from Council members Jennifer Gomez and Edward Loggins III. Michael Baldwin also stepped down to allow a member representing the private insurance industry. Mr. Baldwin will continue to support the efforts of the Council through his staff involvement from DHS. The remaining openings on the Council are due to the expiration of terms of office. The open positions include: 3 parent positions, private insurance, Head Start, public provider for health, and one at large. Twelve names were submitted to fill the eight vacated positions. Glenn Grove, Kyla Alba, Jan Mackey, Jeff Lobas and Maureen Schletzbaum were submitted for reappointment. In addition, the committee sought to bring varying cultural and racial diversity to the Council. The list of potential members was unanimously approved and will be forwarded to the Governor as presented by June 1, 2005.

The Committee also recommended that the Orientation follow a similar agenda as last year and be offered the evening before the September Annual meeting. Several members who had

attended the orientation after a year or two of service commented that the Orientation was beneficial to them and encouraged all members to attend.

Public Policy Committee - Mary Jane Brotherson

Shanell Wagler reported that HF 761 relating to improvement of the early care, child care, health, education and human services systems passed with amendment. This bill no longer includes co-location but agencies providing early childhood services will need to show that they coordinating efforts. The concerns addressed by this council earlier are no longer a part of this bill. Efforts will start to look at how to integrate services. Appropriations: A coordinator will be given \$50,000 plus there will be \$50,000 for a web page. There are still many details which are being worked out. We need to look at how people on this Council can help with the requirements of the bill.

The letter from the Council requesting funding for CHSC went to Governor (see response from Governor on page 1). At this point the appropriation for CHSC maintains the current offices at the 80% level. Additional dollars are not available. The Tobacco tax is not going to pass this year, so it will not be a funding source for Health.

Cathy Ryba and Shanell Wagler offered to assist with writing a letter to the Governor explaining the current issues related to the funding of Special Education services in the state if the committee chooses to go that direction.

Governor's Report Committee - Shanell Wagler, Chair

Committee members: Diane Halverson, Kyla Alba

The mock up of the "Highlights of the Annual Report to the Governor of Iowa" was distributed. The final printing will be completed in June. The Report will be available on the Early ACCESS Web page. The report is user friendly, includes data from FY2003 and highlights the contributions of the Signatory Agencies. New this year is the comments from parents about how the system helped them and their children.

Recognition of Outgoing Members - Bob Bacon

Bob recognized the contributions of outgoing members and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation. Letters will be sent to those who were not in attendance.

Sharing

Julie Curry reported she just returned from a week in Philadelphia. She was struck during her visit that the Council is a representation of the best of what our country is about regarding "we the people."

There will be training for the Infant Toddler Caregiver the week of June 20th. This is being offered to teachers renewing their certificates.

Next meeting Date

The next meeting will be September 16, 2005 at the Des Moines Botanical Center. This will be the Annual meeting with election of officers.

The Orientation meeting for new members is being planned for September 15th. Council members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.